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UKRAINIAN LIGHT INDUSTRY WEAK IN SPOTS

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The capital assets of light industry of the Ukrainian SSR put into operation in 1947 - 1948 were more than 1½ times greater than for the whole Second Five-Year Plan, 1933 - 1937.

Exhaustive use of production reserves of enterprises becomes very important under the conditions of rapid growth of light industry. If these reserves are high at the present time, it is because one fifth of the enterprises failed to fulfill production programs, in spite of the fact that as a whole Ukrainian light industry exceeded the plan for 1948.

Since the end of the war, light industry of the Ukrainian SSR has received large amounts of modern equipment, such as high-speed sewing machines, equipment for making shoes by high-temperature vulcanizing, high-production round-knitting machines, etc. However, some enterprises are still insufficiently advanced.

Fourteen glass plants have been restored in the Republic, but their level of mechanization is unsatisfactory. Production of many items is still accomplished by semimanual methods. In many glass plants, work is done with uneconomical ovens with a working surface of 6 - 10 square meters.

The majority of sewing plants have been reconditioned, and the number of general purpose sewing machines has almost reached its prewar level. Many new Class 22-a machines help to make up this number. But less than one third of special types of sewing machines (eyelet, button, etc.) have been reconditioned. Thus, production has reached only a little more than half the prewar level. In the Chernovtsev Factory No 1, more than half of the 58 workers employed in two shops are performing manual operations. Three special machines would free 20 workers.

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July 1948 is a problem for the Ukrainian SSR, fuel price stocking machines in the Ukrainian knitting enterprises stood for more than a quarter of the working time. At the Chernovtsi No 1 factory, losses due to organizational and technical maladies reached 15 percent over the mark of 1948.

The load on equipment, considerably less than prewar, e.g., during 11 months last year the load on automatic knitting machines was 77 percent of that of 1940; for mal'yetnye machines, 59.5 percent; and for the "M-1" 97.1 percent.

With respect to rate of operation of machines, not a single knitting factory has reached the prewar figures. Only the Khar'kov Stocking Mill (With automatic knitting machines and the Mill imani Mikoyan (with MT-1s) have approached the prewar level. At the Zhitomir, L'vov, Mariupol', and Kirovograd plants the actual rate is 25 - 30 percent below prewar.

Improvement is necessary in glass plants. A number of plants in the Ukrainian SSR have not once in the last 2 years achieved utilization of the glass batch even up to 80 - 85 percent. Output of the glass batch is often unsatisfactory; e.g., the Kiev plant in November last year surpassed its target for output of glass batch from furnace No 2, but the degree of utilization of this batch amounted to only 21.4 percent. Breaches of technical discipline in the preparation of charges and the melting of glass lead to a large amount of breakage and waste. In December 1948, up to 37 percent of the lamp glass produced at the Zholkov plant went into waste. Waste and rejection of tea glasses at the Kiev plant in November was 34.4 percent.

In a number of factories and plants of the light industry of the Ukrainian SSR, new technology is introduced slowly.

The technical re-equipment of light industry of the Ukrainian SSR is being accompanied by fundamental changes in the organization of production processes and by the widespread introduction of continuous processes.

A number of sewing factories of the Ukrainian SSR have the technical means to convert to continuous production, but at the present time not more than 6 - 7 percent of the output has been manufactured by these methods. In the knitting industry, only three mills producing knitted linen carry out assembly-line methods in sewing shops. Hosiery factories of the Ukrainian SSR especially require the introduction of continuous processes. Up to now, these processes have been used only in the Khar'kov hosiery mill. The shoe industry of the Republic also lags behind the prewar level in the introduction of uninterrupted production flow.

The light industry of the Ukrainian SSR is unquestionably successful in its effective use of working funds, in its economy of raw materials, reserve materials, fuel and electrical power.

In spite of the exceptional importance of saving hides, losses are still significant. For the first three quarters of last year, five tanneries out of the six processing sheepskin and goatskin, consumed more than 230,000 square decimeters of raw material over their allocation. In this period two tanneries, the Odessa and Berdichev, producing Russian leather, consumed more than 20 tons of raw material over their allocation.

Methods for taking better advantage of defective and lower-quality hides in manufacture of semifinished products are not being introduced with sufficient intensity in the tanneries of the Ukraine. The lag in production of hardened kid, the plan for which was not fulfilled in the last year, is especially noticeable.

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In the third quarter of the past year, the knitting industry was still high. In three quarters of the past year, 110 hosiery factories in the Ukraine wasted thread from which up to 10,000 per cent of knitted stockings might have been made. An important part of these losses was caused by poor organization of thread rewinding, by the weariness of workers, by failure to observe the established relations in weight and density of the products, etc. Variations in the thread in similar products from different enterprises are characteristic.

Thus, in the manufacture of ten items of women's hose of Type A, in the third quarter of the past year, the Khar'kov factory used 750 grams; the L'vov, 764; Chernovtsy No 1, 833; and the Kirovograd, 908 grams. In production of ten items of Type B, the Khar'kov factory used 750 grams; the L'vov, 818; the Chernovtsy No 5, 836; and the Chernovtsy No 9, 908.

In the knitting plants, waste of material in the production of linen reached 16 - 18 percent, including a 13 - 14 percent waste during cutting.

In many light industrial enterprises in the Ukrainian SSR, economy of fuel is of exceptional importance. For example, expenditure for fuel amounts to as much as 20 percent of the production cost in glass plants. Incidentally, in many plants excessive burning of fuel is permitted. The Romanov glass plant in November and December used 7.5 - 8 tons of fuel for one ton of product.

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